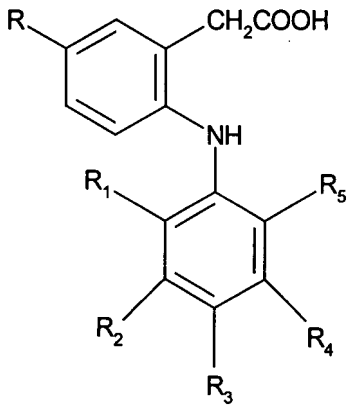

(I)

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wherein R is methyl or ethyl;

R_1 is chloro or fluoro;

R_2 is hydrogen or fluoro;

R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy or ethoxy;

R_4 is hydrogen or fluoro;

R_5 is chloro, fluoro or trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

38. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is a compound of formula I wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is chloro or fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro or methyl; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro or fluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

39. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is a compound of formula I wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen or fluoro; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

40. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is a compound of formula I wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is fluoro; R_3 is hydrogen or ethoxy; R_4 is fluoro; and R_5 isfluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

41. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is a compound of formula I wherein R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen or fluoro; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 ischloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

42. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is a compound of formula I wherein R is methyl or ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2-R_4 are hydrogen or fluoro; and R_5 is chloro or fluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug ester thereof.

43. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is 5-methyl-2-(2'-chloro-6'-fluoroanilino)phenylacetic acid of formula I wherein R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is hydrogen; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is 5-methyl-2-(2',4'-difluoro-6'-chloroanilino)phenylacetic acid of formula I wherein R is methyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 is hydrogen; R_3 is fluoro; R_4 is hydrogen; and R_5 is chloro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. A method according to claim 37 wherein the compound is 5-ethyl-2-(2',3',5',6'-tetrafluoroanilino)phenylacetic acid of formula I wherein R is ethyl; R_1 is fluoro; R_2 isfluoro; R_3 is hydrogen; R_4 is fluoro; and R_5 is fluoro; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims under consideration in the Office Action were claims 1-8, 10-13 and 15-35. New claim 36 was apparently inadvertently omitted from the Office Action summary. Claims 20-35 stand allowed. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19 stand rejected over DE 3,445,011 (Ciba) and US 3,958,690 (Sallmann, *et al.*). EP 865,788 (Yamazaki, *et al.*) was withdrawn as a reference against the claims as amended.